

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14, 17-22, 25-30, 33-35, 37, 39, 41-53, 55-61 and 63-84 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 14, 21, 30, 37, 53, 61, 63 and 74 being independent. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 1, 4-14, 17-22, 25-30, 33-35, 37, 39, 41-53, 55-61 and 63-84 are allowed. Claims 85-89 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Claims 85-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Terasawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,739,847) in view of Kanome et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,952,942). Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled Claims 85-89, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants request withdrawal of all outstanding rejections, and submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

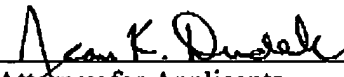
Applicants also respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered. This Amendment could not have been presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. No new claims have been added. Moreover, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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